

CLAIMS:

1. A bonus determining method for determining a bonus information item (BI) for a user of a recording device (1, 2), the following steps being processed:

- recording a coded playback information item (CWI), and recording a link information item (LI) which identifies an authorizing device (4) authorized to grant a playback authorization for the coded playback information item (CWI), and recording at least one recorder identification information item (RKI) on a recording carrier (13, 14) with the aid of the recording device (1, 2), the recorder identification information item (RKI) identifying the recording device (1, 2);
- obtaining a playback authorization for the coded playback information item (CWI), played back with the aid of a playback device (1, 2, 3) from the recording carrier (13, 14) or from a copy of the recording carrier, from the authorizing device (2) [sic] identified by the played back link information item (LI), in order to permit a pay per view billing of a playback charge;
- transferring the at least one recorder identification information item (RKWI), played back from the recording carrier (13, 14) or from the copy of the recording carrier, to the authorizing device (4) identified by the played back link information item (LI); and
- determining the bonus information item (BI) for the user of the recording device (1, 2) from the number of recorder identification information items (RKI) transferred during a billing period from playback devices (1, 2, 3) to the authorizing device (4) and identifying the recording device (1, 2).

2. The bonus determining method as claimed in claim 1, in which a recorder identification information item (RKWI) transferred to the authorizing device (4) from the playback device (1, 2, 3) when the playback authorization is obtained is only rated for determining the bonus information item (BI) for the user of the recording device (1, 2, 3) when the authorizing device (4) has actually also granted the playback authorization for this playback device (1, 2, 3).

3. The bonus determining method as claimed in claim 1, in which the link information item (LI) represents an Internet address of the authorizing device (4), and in which both the obtaining of the playback authorization from the authorizing device (4), and the transferring of the recorder identification information item (RKWI) to the authorizing device (4) are performed via data lines of the Internet (NET).

4. The bonus determining method as claimed in claim 1, in which the authorizing device (4) stores user data for billing the playback charge to the user together with at least one recorder identification information item (RKI, RKWI) which identifies a recording device (1, 2) and/or playback device (1, 2, 3) of the user.

5. A playback device (1, 2, 3) for obtaining a playback authorization for playing back a coded playback information item (CWI) recorded on a recording carrier (13, 14) having playback means (6, 7, 8) for playing back the coded playback information item (CWI) and for playing back a link information item (LI) which identifies an authorizing device (4) authorized to grant the playback authorization for the coded playback information item (CWI), and for playing back at least one recorder identification information item (RKWI) from the recording carrier (13, 14), the recorder identification information item (RKWI) identifying a recording device (1, 2, 3) with the aid of which the coded playback information item (CWI) was recorded on the recording carrier (13, 14), and having communication means (16) for establishing a communication link, identified by the link information item (LI), played back from the recording carrier (13, 14), with the authorizing device (4), in order to obtain the playback authorization for the playback information item (CWI) played back from the recording carrier (13, 14), the communication means (16) being designed for transferring the at least one recorder identification information item (RKWI), played back from the recording carrier (13, 14), to the authorizing device (4).

6. The playback device (1, 2, 3) as claimed in claim 5, in which the communication means (16) transfer the at least one played back recorder identification information item (RKWI) to the authorizing device (4) only when the authorizing device (4) has actually also granted the playback authorization.

7. The playback device (1, 2, 3) as claimed in claim 5, in which the communication means (16) are designed for establishing, by means of the link information item (LI) representing an Internet address, the communication link with the authorizing device (4) via the Internet (NET), and in which both the obtaining of the playback authorization from the authorizing device (4), and the transferring of the recorder identification information item (RKWI) to the authorizing device (4) are performed via data lines of the Internet (NET).

8. The playback device (1, 2, 3) as claimed in claim 5, in which the playback means (6, 7, 8) are designed for playing back all those recorder identification information items (RKWI) recorded on the recording carrier (13, 14), which identify all those recording devices (1, 2) which have contributed to creating the copy of the recording carrier (13, 14) played back by the playback device (1, 2, 3), and in which the communication means (16) are designed for transferring all the recorder identification information items (RKWI), played back from the recording carrier (13, 14), to the authorizing device (4).

9. The playback device (1, 2, 3) as claimed in claim 5, in which recording means (7, 8) are provided which are designed for recording on the recording carrier (13, 14) the coded playback information item (CWI), the link information item (LI) and the recorder identification information item (RKI) identifying the playback device (1, 2, 3).

10. An authorizing device (4) for granting a playback authorization for playing back a coded playback information item (CWI) with the aid of a playback device (1, 2, 3), and for determining a bonus information item (BI) for a user of a recording device (1, 2), having communication means (17) for receiving a playback authorization inquiry information item (AFI), which identifies the playback device (1, 2, 3) and a coded playback information item (CWI) provided by the playback device (1, 2, 3) for playing back from the recording carrier (13, 14), and which includes a recorder identification information item (RKI, RKWI), the recorder identification information item (RKWI) identifying the recording device (1, 2) with the aid of which the coded playback information item (CWI) provided for playing back was recorded on the recording carrier (13, 14), and having authorizing means [sic] (4) for checking whether a successful pay per view billing of a playback charge is warranted for the user of the playback device (1, 2, 3) and, in the event of a positive checking result, for billing the playback charge for playing back the playback

information item (CWI), and for outputting a grant of playback authorization information item (WBI) to the playback device (1, 2, 3), and having
bonus information determining means (21, 22) for determining the bonus information item (BI) for the user of the recording device (1, 2) from the number of recorder identification
5 information items (RKI, RKWI) transferred during a billing period from playback devices (1, 2, 3) to the authorizing device (4) and identifying the recording device (1, 2).

11. The authorizing device (4) as claimed in claim 10, in which a recorder
identification information item (RKWI) included in the inquiry information item (AFI) is
10 only rated for determining the bonus information item (BI) for the user of the recording
device (1, 2) when the authorizing device (4) has actually also granted the playback
authorization for the playback device (1, 2, 3).

12. The authorizing device (4) as claimed in claim 10, in which an account
15 memory (19) is designed for jointly storing user data and at least one recorder identification
information item (RKI, RKWI) which identifies user data for billing the playback charge to
the user, and which [sic] at least one recorder identification information item (RKI, RKWI)
identifies at least one recording device (1, 2) and/or playback device (1, 2, 3) of the user.

20 13. The authorizing device (4) as claimed in claim 10, in which the authorizing
device (4) is formed by a computer server connected to the Internet (NET).